

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 1, line11:

This application is a continuation-in-part application to commonly owned U.S. Application Serial No. 10/012,373, filed October 30, 2001, now US Patent number 6,701,832.

Please amend the paragraph that begins at page 17, line 15:

As embodied herein and shown in Figs. 2, 3, 12 and 13 for example, the compacting mechanism desirably includes a sturdy, rigid flat plate that forms a first portion 40 of the platen. As embodied herein and shown in Figs. 12 and 13, the compacting mechanism also includes an extendable member, which can include a carriage that comprises a pair of opposed side bars 41. As shown in Fig. 2, the first portion 40 of the platen desirably is connected to and carried by the lower ends of the side bars 41 that form the compacting carriage. One of the opposed ends of each side bar 41 is rigidly connected to a first portion 40 of the platen as by welding. As shown in Figs. 12 and 13, the upper portion of each side bar 41 is configured for slideably engaging one of the side rails 30 forming the frame. As shown in ~~Figs. 8 and 9~~ Fig. 14, each side bar 41 desirably engages and rides along one of the opposed tracks 30a, 30b formed in one of the side rails 30 of the frame.